

DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING CO.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1888.

VOL. XIII: NO. 174,

B. G. BVANS GO

This Week's Offering of Useful Xmas Presents. CLOAKS---Great Reduction of Prices.

Commencing Monday morning we will offer our entire stock of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Cloaks at prices that will astonish the closest buyers. The weather has been too mild for the successful sale of cloaks. We are caught with an immense stock of them on hand; we are determined not to carry them over. Sell them we will; no matter how cheap they must be sold. All new, fresh goods and latest styles. Ladies wishing to purchase Cloaks will find it to their interest to look through our mammoth stock. Plush Sacques, Plush Jackets, Plush Short Wraps, Plush Modjeskas, Plush 3-4 Coats, all will go this week at prices that will close them out.

DRESS GOODS AND SILKS.

We wish to state to those looking for useful Xmas presents that we have made some special low prices on fine grade silks. We are showing the late designs in Moire Pekins in both black and colored; Handsome Black Brocades, elaborate patterns; Roman Plaids and Stripes. We will display them Monday on our counters.

We shall offer about 50 French Dress Patterns in Combination Stripes and Plaids, many of them our own importation, at choice for \$10, which is less than half their value.

SHOULD READ Prices Moderate. Styles Correct.

Ladies' and Gents' Silk Umbrellas. Half Dozen Kid Gloves in Plush Boxes. Half Dozen Handkerchiefs in Plush Boxes. Fine Scalloped Embroidered Handkerchiefs. Initial Handkerchiefs. Corsage Handkerchiefs. Silk Mittens. Lace Boas. Linen Table Sets. Lace Bed Sets. Table and Piano Covers. Fine Towels. Napkins. Lap Robes. Plush Cases. Albums. Gents' Dressing Gowns. Silk and Cashmere Mufflers. Silk Hats. Neck-

wear. Fine Slippers. No fancy prices, all reasonable. Call early to avoid the crowd. CLOTHING---We continue our great Reduction Sale of Clothing. 25 per cent. reduction

E. W. TAYLOR, President. E. E. CHASE, 1st Vice-President. MORGAN JONES, 54 Fire-President. The Merchants National Bank of Fort Worth.

DIRECTORS—J. G. Wright, Morgan Jones, B. C. Evans, C. J. Swasey, W. A. Huffman, C. Sash, R. M. Wynne, B. F. Ellington, W. G. Nowby, E. W. Taylor, E. E. Chase, R. M. Page, T. Wholesale and Retail Grocers. Martin, A. B. Smith, Mark Evans, E. Transacts a general banking business in loans, discounts and exchange—foreign and domestic. Correspondence solicited. Collections made and promptly emitted. Savary Deposit Boxes for Rent.

II. C. HIEATT.

SIDNEY MARTIN, JNO. C. HARRISON, Cushies

THE STATE NATIONAL BANK.

Corner Main and Fourth Streets.

Cash Capital, - - - \$300,000. Surplus Fund, - - - \$50,000. DIRECTORS—W. M. Harrison, Sidney Martin, H. C. Hieatt, C. Y. McClellan, Geo. W. Baker, S. D. Rainey, Jr. W. Q. Bateman, J. F. Cooper and Jno. C. Harrison. 43 Collections receive prompt attention and a general banking business transacted.

E. M. VANZANDT, President. THOS. A. TIDBALL, Vice-President. N. HARDING, Cashler.

THE FORT WORTH NATIONAL BANK. Capital Stock Paid Up, \$125,000. Surplus Fund, \$30,000.

A general banking business transacted. Collections made and promptly remitted. Exchange rawn on all the principal cities of Europe. DIRECTORS A. M. Vanzandt, Thos. A. Tidball, N. Harding, H. B. Herd, J. J. Jarvis, E. J. Beall, D. C. BENNETT, Vice-President. E. B. HARROLD, Cashier.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Corner Second and Houston Streets, Cash Capital, \$250,000. Surplus, \$125,000.

DIRECTORS John E Horfe, M. B. Loyd, C. H. Higbee, Zane Cetti, D. C. Bennett, George ackson, S. B. Burnett, E. B. Harrold and E. W. Harrold. Transacts a General Banking Business.

CHAS, SCHEUBER, Vice-President, MAX ELSER, Cashler. City National Bank of Fort Worth, Tex.

Capital, \$150,000. Surplus, \$30,000. Safety Deposit Boxes, Fire and Burglar Proof, For Rent. DIRECTORS-J. Q. Sandidge, C. M. Crane, T. T. D. Andrews, Chas. Scheuber, Max Elser.

TOYS AND HOLIDAY GOODS.

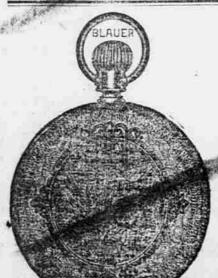
FULL LINE, LOWEST PRICES. BEST ASSORTMENT.
Line Gift Books, Albums and Christmas Cards in the City. H. N. CONNER & CO.,

Rates \$2.50 Per Day. GEO. C. HUDGINS, Man'g.

CASEY & SWASEY.

Wholesale

QUORS AND CIGARS!



Booksellers and Stationers.

\$1 A WEEK

In order to a vertise our large stock of Watches thoroughly we have commenced organizing clubs as putting in a Seventy Dollar Watch for Sixty Dollars on payments of \$1 a week. This is not an installment plan, and we guarantee to save you \$10 on every watch you buy in our clubs. Members are in no wise responsible for any loss that

JOIN NOW!

Fort Worth

How the State Has Thrown Obstacles in the Settler's Wav.

A Man Should be Allowed to Leave His Claim Whenever Business or Necessity Demands It.

The Laws Should be Revised and Liberalized and the Poor Encouraged to Come to Texas for Cheap Homes.

FROM HALL COUNTY. SALISBURY, HALL COUNTY, TEX., Doc. 17, 1888.

I am gind to see that THE GAZETTE, which has at all times been the friend of the "man with the hoe," favors a revision of the state land laws. The settler and prospector have long known that the present laws were harsh and unjust, and now that THE GAZETTE has taken the matter in hand to inform the public generally of this fact, we hope and trust that you will not let up until we are granted more liberal laws by the next legislature The state has at all times thrown ob-stacles in the settler's way, when it thought no doubt it was encouraging him. Now for a sample we call your attention to that part of the law which requires a three years' residence upon the hard. The latter part of the law is where the trouble is. It says: "And if any purchaser shall full to reside upon and improve in good faith the land purchased by him he shall forfeit said land and all payments made thereon to the state, and such land shall be again for sale as if no such sale and forfeiture had occurred." "It will be again sold to any applicant who complies with the law." —[R.M.H.

circular So far it is good enough, but under the present construcțion of the law, if a settier leaves his claim from any cause whatever during the first three years, whether he has improved it or not,
'it will be again sold to any applicant
who complies with the law,''
'the law distinctly says if he ''shall fail

A PECULIAR HOUSE.

No drummers' salary mondroad tickets, no hotel bills, lecaulty These and other expenses are taken of of the price of goods, wholesale and retail. The received a carload of Dandy Soap. to reside upon and improve' he shall forfeit the land and payments made thereon; but no mention that I know of made of improved claims being forfelted, yet under this same law I know of several settlers who lost their claims because they had to leave them during the recent drouth, and some of them had pretty good improvements on them, and they lost every dollar they had invested in land and improvements. Now, is there any justice in this? Should a man be allowed to leave claim whenever business not his or necessity demanded it? or is there any encouragement to a poor man to invest

A PIONEER PASSES AWAY.

E. O. Lynch of Galveston, Probably the Oldest

Business Man in Texas.

GALVESTON, TEX., Dec. 22. - Last

night Mr. E. O. Lynch, one of the early

immigrants to the infant republic of

Texas, who came from "the states" to

east his fortunes in the then almost un-

known land, passed away to-day at the

ripe age of eighty-seven years, At

the time of his death Mr. Lynch was the oldest business man becomession, and with the exception of

B. A. Shepard of Houston probably the

oldest in the state. Coming here nearly

fifty years ago, he had been engaged in

business ever since. Mr. Lynch was mar-

ried nearly half a century since to Mrs.

Mott, who died a few years ago, but had

no children. The descendants of his

wife ber former husband are Colonel

M. F. Mott of the law firm of Willie,

Mott & Ballinger, and Messrs. Samuel and William Mott. The modest,

industrious, honest and unobtrasive Mr.

Lynch was a model of the business man

of early years of the American republic, and while not mixing in the "hurley-

burley'' of later years, his death will be

keenly felt by the few "old-timers" still left, who are awaiting their call with

the full knowledge that it may come at

afternoon, and was largely attended.

Special to the Gazette.

parents of the groom.

pecial to the Gazette.

Married at Wolf City.

WOLF CITY, TEX., Dec. 23 .- A brilliant

wedding took place at the Baptist church

at 10 a. m. to-day, the parties being Mr.

A. N. Demerit and Miss Alice Nail.

Rev. R. C. Pender officiating, After

many congratulations and some nice

presents, the bridal party left on the H a.

m. train for Navasota, Tex., to visit the

Married at Kopperl.

KOPPERL, TEX., Dec. 23 .- Mr. J. H.

Estes, the efficient and popular Santa Fe

agent, and Miss Luna Greer, one of

Bosque's most popular and beautiful

young ladies, were married here at the

Baptist church to-day at 11:30 a. m.,

Lufkin Lodge Officers.

P. C., S. Abram; C. C., J. E. McPher-

K. of R. and S , W. S. Corler; M. of A.

A Brakeman Killed.

J. Colley, brakeman, was shot and in-

stantly killed here last night by John

Scott, constable. Scott went home about

10 o'clock and said he found Colley about his place and thought he was a

stranger trying to steal his mules and

shot as he ran away. Scott is under ar-rest. Colley's father lives in Nashville.

Searbrough Out on Bond.

PALESTINE, TEX., Dec. 23 .- Justice

Hudson concluded yesterday the examin-

ing trial of J. L. Scarbrough, charged

with the murder of Bill Williams, whom

he killed in a fight at the former's gin on

Monday last. Searbrough's bond was fixed at \$2500, which he readily made.

Abram; trustee, H. D. Weaver.

Special to the Gazette.

Special to the Gazette.

son; V. C., J. F. Davis; M. of E., W.

Rev. W. H. Parks officiating.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

Special to the Gazette.

his all in improvements under such a law, r such a construction of the law? It is risky enough here, God knows, and let the state do her best for us, but with drouth on one side and the state on the other to gobble up our little, the risks are more than doubled under the present construction of the law settlers on state school land are a sort of states prisoners for three years, and let it come drouth or what it will, if they make a break for their liberty and leave their claims, no matter whether their impre nents are worth \$50 or \$1000, whether they have been on them one month or two years, they are forfeited to the state, and "it will be again sold to any applicant who omplies with the law."

It is a well known fact that men of means are not going into a new eduntry until it is first proved by poor men. justice demands and the people should demand that the land laws be revised and liberalized, and the poor encouraged to some here instead of being deterred, and if this country is fit for anything the state will soon reap the benefits of her liberal D. S. TROY.

FROM HALE COUNTY. PLAINVIEW, HALE COUNTY, TEX., Dec. 14, 1888. To the Gazette.

any time: *
Mr. Lynch's interment took place this Referring to the petition from Lipscoml county asking a reduction in the price of school land and the repeal of the forfeiture clause, allow me to offer a suggestion from our standpoint.:

Anyone who has never lived in this section of Texas cannot realize what a barden this annual interest is to our peo-

The great bulk of Central Texas was given away under our republic and state laws in donations and headrights, and now in this country the settler is compelled to buy at \$2 per acre, dry land; if watered, \$3 per acre, and forfeit his home if he is so unfortunate as to be unable to raise money to pay the annual in-terest, no matter whether it be dry or wet, or what disaster may have over-

taken him. There are two sides to this question, the benefits to the school fund on the one hand, the aiding and sustaining the settler in his efforts to make a home for himself and develop the country on the other.

Most of our settlers are poor men who are trying to make homes for their families and with raw land and farming in an experimental state cannot be expected to make farming a success, at least until LUFKIN, TEX., Dec. 21 .- The following the land is put in good condition, which flicers were elected to serve the ensuing takes sometime to do so, especially in new countries perhaps quite a long disterm by Lufkin lodge, No. 73, K. of P .: tance from markets to secure your tools, etc., necessary for farming. The man with limited means buys school land, puts M. Vinson; M. of F., J. M. Skurlocks. his money into improvements and the B. J. Milam; representative to grand lodge, J. A. Abney; alternate, S. season is too dry or wet or some disaster cuts short his crop and he can't pay the annual interest, the state comes in, forfeits the land, thereby bringing ruin upon the settler and what has the state been benefited? She does not get any income out WALNUT SPRINGS, TEX., Dec. 23 .- J. of this unfortunate settler by doing so.

I would suggest that the state give

very settler on school land a credit of \$10 on every acre of timber that he plants and succeeds in growing to a safety, not to exceed thirty or forty acres per sec-tion, credit this amount on his annual interest. This would furnish him work at home and would enable him to hold his land for five or six years; this would give him time to put in a good farm and learn

how, when and what to plant so as to make farming profitable. The benefits of the law might be extended to the homesteader, giving him an additional five acres for every acre of

timber planted by him . The great bulk of the unsold agricul-

school fund is on the Staked Plains, which is the largest body of treeless prairie in the United States

The capability of this country has not been fairly tested, but those who know it best have the brightest hopes of its fu-

Only a few years since Kansas was in our condition; aided by wise and humane laws, she has now come to the front as a farming country.

I would like to hear from others on the subject, and if the legislature cannot make the concessions asked, it should at least suspend the forfeiture clause for the first five years after the purchase of the school land. Yours truly,

"STAKED PLAINS."

A KANSAS CITY SUICIDE. .

An Ex-Captain of Police Who Had Charge of the Police Relief Association Funds Short in His Accounts.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23 .- Ex-Captain of Police Charles Ditsch was found dead this morning in Union cemetery. He was lying on his daughter's grave with a ghastly bullet wound in his head while a murderous looking 44-calibre revolver told the rest of the story. He had charge of the funds of the Police Relief Association and his suicide is supposed to be due to his being short in his accounts. On Saturday he gave a check for \$1600 to a man who had negotiated a lean (with good security) on the funds of the association. Upon presenting it at the bank the statement was made that there were no funds to his credit. The total assets of the fund were \$10,000 of which about \$4500 were in notes and the rest in eash. It is supposed there is very little left although Ditsch's safe has not been opened. The dead man had resigned some months ago to start a saloon which was profitable, but it is understood he helped friends in the same business and appropriated police funds for the purpose. The revolver with which he killed himself once belonged to Jesse James. The desperado gave it to Bob Ford who in turn presented it to Ditsch and afterward

A FATHER'S LUST.

A German Resident of the Creek Nation Con victed of Incest at Fort Smith.

pecial to the Gazette. FORT SMITH, ARK., Dec. 23 .- John Bahr, a German about fifty years of age has just been convicted in the United States court of incest. Bahr is a widower and resided in the Creek nation and with him lived one of his daughters, a prepossessing girl about eighteen years of age. Her eldest sister, Jennie Bahr, lived in St. Louis. When the condition, girl discovered her she went to St. Louis and made the fact known to Jennie, who at once set about to have the unnatural parent prosecuted and caused his arrest last October. Both the girls then came to this city, and on Thanksgiving night the child was born at St. John's hospital, and during the trial just closed the mother gave her testimony with the offspring of the father's lust in her arms. She testified that her father forced her condition upon and her statement was backed by other testimony. Bahr claimed, first, that she was not his daughter, but the family Bible was produced, showthe record of the birth, and Jennie Bahr also testified that she was the legitimate offspring of the defendant, who was also her father. The defense then endeavored to establish that the girl had been on intimate terms with other men and the old man was being used as a scapegoat, but the verdict of the jury does not sustain them. It is the first case of the kind ever before this court and has attracted much attention. The penalty is from three to tifteen years imprisonment. The jury returned their verdict last night about 11:30 o'clock.

A Difficulty in the Choctaw Nation Which

IN SELF-DEFENSE.

Resulted Fatally. Special to the Gazette.

FORT SMITH, ARK., Dec. 237-William Harding was lodged in the United States prison this afternoon on a charge of murder. On Tuesday last near Cowlington, Chactaw oation, he became involved in a difficulty with a young man named Joe Lewis. The latter attacked him with a brick and he used a pocket knife with fatal effect, Lewis dying of his wounds on Wednesday night, Immediately after the difficulty occurred Harding came in and surrendered on a charge of assault with intent to kill and mmediately gave bond, returning home It becoming known at the marshal's

office yesterday that Lewis was dead an officer was sent out for Harding and he was re-arrested to-night.

GLYCERINE EXPLOSION.

A Magazine Blows Up With Frightful Force. Loss of Life Feared.

BRADFORD, Pa., Dec. 22 .- A glycerine magazine in Buchanan Hollow, one mile from Tarpert, exploded about 6 o'clock this evening, wrecking a large number of houses in Bradford, three miles away. A large building at Tarpert, in which were nine persons, collapsed, seriously njuring three children, one a little girl who cannot survive. In another house a lamp was overturned and the house burned. The explosion was caused it was thought from excessive heat. It is not known whether anyone was killed, as it was too late to find any of the remains if there are any.

Married at Kerens. Correspondence of the Gazette.

KERENS, TEX., Dec. 20 .- Mr. A. M Allen, traveling salesman for G. Seligson & Co. of Galveston, was to-day married to Miss Delia Lalley of this place. The ceremony was performed at the house of the bride's father by Rev. Dr. Riley in the presence of select friends. Miss Lalley was one of the most accomplished and beautiful young ladies of Na-The great bulk of the unsold agricul-tural lands still belonging to the state in wishing for her a happy future.

RIVER DISASTER.

Katé Adams, Running from Memphis to Arkansas City, Burned.

Twenty-Four People Drowned, Including Men of Both Colors and Several Colored Women.

The Steamer, the Finest and Fastest of Her Type, Valued at \$75,000, a Total Loss. \$5000 in Money Burned.

A TOTAL LOSS. . . . MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 23. The elegant passenger steamer, Kate Adams, running and semi-weekly between Memphis and Akansas City, burned this

morning near Commerce, Miss., forty miles south of this city. She was en route to Memphis, and had about 200 people aboard, including her deck and cabin erew of eighty, and twenty-five cabin and sixty deck passengers, and twenty-five colored cabin, passengers. The fire, which caught is some cotton near the forward end of the bollers, was discovered about 8 o'cleck. The passengers were at breakfast, and wilco the alarm was given they all

RUSHED FOR THE FORWARD DECK.
The steamer at the time was about 300 yards from the Mississiphi side of the river and her bow was at once headed for the shore. Pilot Joe Barton was on the watch and remained heroleally at his post until she was safely landed. Harry Bert, / second clerk, who was seated at the table when the alarm was given, had brought all the ladies and children forward and assisted them. Captain Mark R. Cheek, who was on the hurricane deck, remained there, giving his commands until the stage plank was safely lowered. The fire by this time had spread all through the abin, and he was compelled to retreat to the rear, and he climbed over the rails

DESCENDED TO THE CABIN. Here he found Chief Clerk W. C. Bianker, who had made an effort to save the money and papers of the steamer which were in the safe. He managed to grab the money, but was cut off from the bow and forced back into the cabin. As he was groping his way aft he stumbled and fell over some chairs and lost all the valuables he had secured, and it was with great difficulty he succeeded in reaching the rear through the blinding smoke and flames which filled the cabin. Captain Cheek seized a life-preserver and placing it on Clerk Blanker helped him overboard into the water. He floated down about three miles before he was rescued by parties who had walked ashore and followed him down the river. Captain Cheek assisted sever-al others in securing life preservers and when it was no longer possible for him to remain without being burned, he too

JUMPED INTO THE RIVER and swam ashore. There were about twenty-five cabin passengers. On the lower deck, however, a fearful panie seized the crew and deck passengers. Those who were cut off from escape from the bow were compelled to jump overto save their lives. of the burning steamer had swung out into the river, and in the effort to launch a yawl it was capsized by the crowd which filled it, and many of its occupants were drowned. They were mostly colored men, but there were three or four women in the crowd. LIST OF LOST.

The lost, so far as can be learned, are as follows:

George Cornett, third clerk, aged 38. who had launched the yawl and was trying to save the colored women on the lower deck. He leaves a wife who resides in St. Louis.

JOE PORTER. ANDREW REES. MONROE JACKSON. JIM NELSON

SENATOR COLEMAN. HILLIARD HORTON, of the colored LEE FIXLEY and

FRANK WELLS, colored roustabout.

In addition about fifteen deck passengers, four of whom were white men, also drowned. In this list of unknown were three colored women and two children. They were coming to Memphis to spend the holidays. The whites had been working on the levees and their names and destination are unknown. The burning steamer drifted away after lying at the bank for twenty minutes and floated down the river, her hull sinking at the head of Peters island, four miles below Commerce.

THE KATE ADAMS
was owned by the Memphis and Vicks-burg Packet Company, of which Major John D. Adams of Little Rock is president. She was the finest and fastest steamer of her type and her owners this summer spent \$20,000 in repairing her. She was valued at \$75,000; insured for \$33,750. This would have been the completion of her six hundred and second trip in the Memphis and Arkansas City trade. Her officers were: Mark R. Cheek, captain; W. C. Blanker, Harry Best, George Corbett and William Donshue, clerks; Billy Hodges and Joseph Barton, pilots. Her cargo consisted of 1161 bales of cotton, 1900 sacks of cotton seed, eighty-seven bags of seed and a

DARBYS

IN CASE ACCIDENTS

D FLESH